

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00219 011030Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

DODE-00 /023 W

----- 069590

R 011010Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO COMIDEASTFOR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1301

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCLR, MARR, QA, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF USS SEMMES TO QATAR

REF: DOHA 0050 (DTG 141030Z JAN 76), COMIDEASTFOR (DTG 200909Z JAN 76

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(NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTING THAT FORMERLY APPROVED VISIT OF USS SEMMES TO DOHA BE POSTPONED AND THAT WE RESUBMIT REQUEST FOR LATER VISIT. NOTE EXPLAINS THAT ALL CONCERNED GOQ OFFICIALS WILL BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH ACTIVITIES RELATED TO GULF GAMES AND, THEREFORE, APR 10-12 TIMING NOT CONVENIENT.

2. WHEN WE FIXED APR 10-12 DATES FOR SEMMES' VISIT WITH SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES, TIMING OF GULF GAMES TAKEN FULLY INTO CONSIDERATION. WE ORIGINALLY INFORMED THAT GAMES WOULD TERMINATE ON APR 7. SINCE OUR CONVERSATION WITH SHAYKH HAMAD, GOQ HAS FORMALLY NOTIFIED ALL DIPLOMATPA MISSIONS THAT IT CANNOT HOST VISITING DELEGATIONS OR OTHER GUESTS UNTIL AFTER APR 15 BECAUSE OF THE GAMES UNLESS SUCH VISITS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED AND FORMALLY APPROVED.

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3. SHAYKH HAMAD IS OUT OF COUNTRY AND WILL NOT RETURN FOR ANOTHER

WEEK. WE CANNOT DETERMINE WHETHER HE APPROVED FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF SEMMES' VISIT, AND WE WILL TAKE MATTER UP WITH HIM AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TO DOHA, AND ASK THAT APR 10-12 DATES BE RECONFIRMED. HOWEVER, SHOULD HAMAD CONFIRM REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH ALTERNATE DATES. SOME TIME DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS IN MAY WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT FOR US.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, SEMMES USS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA00219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0802
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrux.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DOHA 50
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF USS SEMMES TO QATAR
TAGS: PFOR, OCLR, MARR, QA, US
To: COMIDEASTFOR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006